flooding and consequent damages which occurred in lower Assam during 2nd half of July, 2007 were not attributable to the release of excess water from dams in Bhutan. The floods were caused by wide spread heavy rainfall during the later half of July, 2007 in the lower reaches of Eastern and Middle Bhutan. The issue was however taken up further with the Government of Bhutan during the 2nd meeting of Joint Group of Experts between India and Bhutan on Flood Management held at New Delhi on Feb. 26-27, 2008. The Bhutanese side informed in the meeting that the projects Tala, Chukha, Kurichu etc. are Run of River (ROR) Schemes and have very little live storage capacities. During monsoon season, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) generally maintain the reservoir level in the above projects below Full Reservoir Level (FRL) to provide some cushion against sudden rise in inflow and therefore, there is no excess release of water from the projects. The figures of spillway discharges and machine are received by CWC from RGoB regularly.

Proposal for canal repair works in Madhya Pradesh

†1700. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for canal repair works under correction of deficiency have been forwarded for approval by the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) the number of proposals approved by Government of India, so far;

(c) the reason for not according approval to the proposals for canal repair work, so far; and

(d) the time limit for approval of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Six proposals have been submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh under correction of system deficiencies in June, 2008.

(b) to (d) The Command Area Development and Water Management Programme for the XI Plan has been approved by the Government only in the month of October, 2008. The proposals will now be placed before the Core Group of Experts of the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration in the next meeting.

Depletion of ground water

1701. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) present scenario of depleting ground water, Block-wise and State-wise;

(b) how many of these Blocks are safe;

(c) the rates of depletion of water level, during last three years, Block-wise, State-wise and Year-wise;

(d) what has been achieved by the Scheme, "Artifical Recharge to Ground Water through dug well" in seven States; and

(e) how alarming is scenario of depletion of ground water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the joint assessment carried out by the Central Ground Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi